

West Ohio Conference - Notice to Candidates
Local Pastor, Deacon, or Elder

License for Pastoral Ministry

Current rules of the Board of Ordained Ministry require attendance and satisfactory participation in the Local Pastors' Certification/Licensing School before a person may be issued a "license for pastoral ministry." (formerly called "local pastor's license") This requirement is in addition to the disciplinary requirements of candidacy certification and a place to be appointed.

This applies to everyone, regardless of how much of seminary has been completed. This is "stronger" than the disciplinary requirement of "one-third of their work for a Master of Divinity degree..."

When the requirements have been met, the "license for pastoral ministry" must be recommended by the District Committee on the Ministry (DCOM) and approved by the Board of Ministry (BOM). The license is issued by the bishop when the appointment is made.

License for the Practice of Ministry

Local Pastors are required to participate in Course of Study classes. Progress is reviewed annually with the DCOM Check in at time of renewal for License.

The Board of Ordained Ministry now requires all Provisional Deacons (PD) to attend a Formation Event before a License for the Practice of Ministry is issued. This license will allow one to register with the Secretary of State to officiate weddings, visit in jails, etc. while they are in the Provisional Deacon (PD), before ordination as a Deacon.

Exceptions can be made in consultation with Office of Ministry, for example, the Deacon event offered by GBHEM may be attended instead of the Formation Event. For Provisional deacons with a part-time appointment, the appointment must be at least 20 hours a week. In addition, there should be at least 10 hours a week in other deacon work (secondary appointment or other).

Provisional Deacons and Provisional Elders are required to complete two full-time years of service before meeting the service requirement to meet with the Board of Ordained Ministry for Ordination and Full Membership.

Should you have any questions, please contact Office of Ministry.
Office Phone number: 614-844-6200 Toll Free number: 800-437-0028

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